GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:288
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
WEB TERRORISTS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of IT has taken note of `Web Terrorists` freezing more than 500 India related Web sites illegally;

(b) if so, facts and details thereof;

(c) the manner in which it is going to affect the Indian Business and Indian industries;

(d) the precautions likely to be taken by the Government to control web terrorists and hackers activities;

(e) whether the hackers claims have been discussed in Indian Science Congress 2000;

(f) if so, facts thereof; (g) whether senior officials of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited have confirmed such an attach; and (h) if so, the action plan of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a) to (h): Certain India related web sites in the country and abroad have been affected by the hacker activities. The exact number can not be ascertained as it is difficult to pinpoint the geographical locations of the internet sites. Moreover, in the absence of any formal mechanism, affected organisations have also not been reporting about the hacking of their web site. The identity of the hackers often can not be ascertained as the hackers generally operate under some fictitious names or from other dormant sites.

The internet hacking/security attack on web sites disrupts the services provided by such sites. In some cases, the data is blocked, deleted or is over-written by some other information thereby blocking the access to genuine information. This affects the business operations.

Intenet is a conglomeration of networks having presence in over two hundred countries. It is difficult for any single Government agency to exercise control over it. Solution lies mainly with content/service providers in deploying firewall or security audit system. IT Bill will act as a deterrent to the activities of the hackers.

A report had appeared in `The Hindu` dated 30.12.1999 stating that the Pakistani Hackers Club have claimed that the web site of Indian Science Congree 2000 was hacked. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited have not confirmed the newspaper report.